



CONNECTING

Message Five

Connecting Through Small Groups

Pastor Mike Chapman

For the past several weeks, we have been focusing our attention on relationships and authentic community. We have said...

...we were created by God to connect with others.

...the church was instituted by Christ to facilitate authentic connecting.

...Jesus demonstrated community in his relationship with the 12 disciples.

...In order for us to connect, we must discern the things in our lives that must be challenged and destroyed because they are enemies to true community.

Today, we will get real practical. What role do small groups play in building authentic community?

CONNECTING CAN ONLY HAPPEN WITH A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE

We can have a lot of acquaintances, but can only truly know and be known by a few.

Every person needs an **oikos**.

Greek for "**household**"

A circle of close friends and family

Acts 11:14, *'Send to Joppa and get Simon, the one they call Peter. He'll tell you something that will save your life—in fact, you and everyone you care for (oikos).'* (Msg)

HOW SMALL GROUPS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

They undercut the **holy man** and **holy place** myths.

Matthew 18:20, *Jesus said, For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.* (NIV)

They empower people to **serve**.

1 Peter 4:10, Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (NIV)

They create a network of **care** and **accountability**.

Hebrews 10:24- 25, *Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.** (NLT)

They provide an environment of **growth**.

Ephesians 4:15, *Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.* (NIV)

They give you the chance to be **annoyed** -- once in awhile.

1 Peter 4:8-9, *Most important of all, you must sincerely love each other, because love wipes away many sins. Welcome people into your home and don't grumble about it.* (CEV)

BE PROACTIVE – GET INTO A GROUP

Three connecting environments at City Church:

1. **The Foyer**

More formal The crowd

2. **The Living Room**

More casual 15-50 People

3. **The Kitchen**

More intimate 3-12 people